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Information on the situation of the Iron Guard

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As a continuation to the study made in 1947, information on the situation of the Iron Guard is as follows:

## I. Abroad

1. Disorganization exists in the group. The "Simistii" movement is the most powerful and has maintained its old doctrinary line. It has strong organizations in Austria and Western Germany. The "Simistii" movement has branches in Paris, Madrid, Rome and Argentina. The Legionnaire movement is a political organization and functions according to the following plan:

- Assistance and reciprocal aid
- Cultivation of the Ideologic spirit
- Cell organizations
- Information activity among groups and national propaganda among the uninformed Rumanians who lack any source of information.

The "Simistii" maintain that they did not make any mistakes in the past and they have nothing to be reproached for. Their anti-Communist attitude of many years has confirmed their point of view. They believe in Germany's power, which they think will rise once more with the help of foreign aid. Thus they will have someone to depend on in their foreign politics. For their internal policy they intend to increase their membership. In 1940 they had about one million members.

The most important personalities of the "Simista" movement are the same persons as mentioned in the preceding report. There are certain persons in the hierarchy who desire Horia Sima to give up his leadership. It is affirmed that if Horia Sima were to resign, the Legion would become united and the other groups would cease to exist. At the present time there are three personalities who are preparing to break with the "Simista" group for the reasons given above. The three persons are as follows: Corneliu Georgescu, former Minister of Education, his brother Traian Georgescu, who is the Chief of the "Simista" group in Germany and Iasinsky former Minister of Propaganda. The biographies of these persons are as follows:

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Other Iron Guardists in form of the Sima group are Stefan Cioba, Engineer Filip, Iosif Cilibi, Engineer Vitcu, Gheorghe who have formed a group called the "Comaneni Group". At Paris there is an important group consisting of Ret. Boldescu, Axente Crisu, Filati Carlica, Jaramu, Popescu and Mugat. In Spain they have Dr. Enescu. In Rome the leader is Olteanu while in Argentina there is the Ghenea group.

At present the following persons are in Paris: H. Sima, Professor Proto-popescu and Dimatriu. There are many others here to obtain a new orientation.

2. The "Mexicana Group" is the most powerful dissident Iron Guard group. The following are in the group: Papanase, Lefter (in Argentina), Dumitrescu and Barua in Italy. The leader whom they most follow is Garneaza, who is on his way to Argentina.

3. The attempt of Horațiu Comanaciu to join with the Sima Group fell through. All the "Simistii" consider him a deserter and are extremely against him. Comanaciu actually a National Peasant Legionnaire - and at present isn't given much importance. Few people followed Comanaciu except those who were on the border line of the Legion. In the "Mexicana Group" Comanaciu had more of a following. Comanaciu was tactless and had a poor knowledge of politics. This is why his group is a failure. Actually Comanaciu desired to obtain people from both groups - to create a group of progressive legionnaires through whom he would change the cadre of the National Peasant Party. At the same time he desired to keep his group intact in the midst of the National Peasant Party. This game was easily recognized and both groups maintained their positions. It is certain that H. Comanaciu could not continue his activity except in the ranks of the National Peasant Party as a common member and not as a chief of a group. (For the present I have fixed the cadre and the statute for A. Popa and Yen.)

4. The relations of the legionnaire groups mentioned above have ceased to exist.

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and it is not known whether conciliations will be resumed. Actually the major faction of the Legionnaires, the "Sima" group, are very eager to get into contact with the representatives of the National Peasant Party and the Liberals. In fact a serious discussion with Axente, ~~ELIADU~~<sup>ELIADU</sup>, Boldeanu, Dumitriu and Protopopescu.

The Sima group were very desirous to join General Radescu's group but they were to forward. General Radescu encouraged them in January 1948, but when placed in a position to help the Sima group, he backed down.

Fearing that he would be discovered as forming a movement with the international state, he told them to maintain silence, a fact which was made by Bartu Niculescu, who among other missions had the job to see that secrecy was maintained. The plans made by the General in regard to leadership of the Legion was that two legionnaires representatives be placed on the National Committee. These plans are not valid any more. The legionnaires desired to be on the National Committee only if the Committee would have been composed of the democratic parties and not of personalities. Thus the General did not know the Legion's attitude - he depended on them in an external plan - as a numerical value. As for his internal plan, he intended to use them as "Maquis" value - rather than on the basis of a combination with the parties.

Without doubt H. Sima through his emissaries has been informed of the viewpoint of the movement. The reaction was powerful - Nicolae Caranfil who was known by the legionnaires as General Radescu's representative on the Continent, was upheld in his propaganda and activity in Germany and Austria. Caranfil carried out the General's game until a few days ago, when the French authorities discovered and warned him of the Legion's plan to join the movement (in this sense he believes it useless to confide to Ven).

The Legion, through its representative from Paris, informed Ven and Popa that they are ready to negotiate directly, ~~and without any intermediaries~~. Ven and Popa asked them to agree to the following:

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- To publish the act dissolving the Legion
  - To free every enrolled member
  - To have election of officers, with every member in the democratic parties in exile permitted to vote.
5. There isn't any contact between the legionnaires and the local Communists.
6. The activities of the Legionnaire groups and their leaders can be summed up as follows:
- a. In Germany and Austria they offered their information services to the foreign agencies of the occupation forces.
  - b. In France they penetrated in the Students Cultural Association as well as the steering committee of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Paris.
  - c. In the Committee of Assistance in Germany and Austria there are serious infiltrations.
  - d. In Argentina they convinced the authorities that they represent the national power, thus the people from there followed exclusively the recommendations of the legionnaire committee.

#### Legionnaires in Rumania

The Legionnaire movement in Rumania can be considered as non-existent. In 1946 there were still four legionnaire groups in Rumania:

- a. H. Comanaciu group, the most powerful group, which still has about 200-250 members. The chief of this movement Engineer Vitelescu, was killed in March 1948. The centers where they are still active are Arad, Timisoara, Brasov, Sibiu, Bucuresti, and Iasi (Actually there is a courier who is making the trip between Iasi, Sibiu and Bucuresti. He has been away from home for 4 months).

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These groups were composed of students, priests and professors.

c. The "Patreson group" came to terms with the Communists. It was affirmed that they maintained the same party line. *They have 100 members.*

d. "Vojen" - the greatest majority went over to the Communists. They consisted of \_\_\_\_\_ armed guards. They were cruel and bestial to those in prison, because they desired to prove their loyalty to the Communists.

Conclusions

According to the latest declaration which they are prepared to issue, the Iron Guard movement will not exist as an organization exclusively for promoting the legionnaire ideas. The Legionnaire movement is looking for a new orientation from the democratic parties.

The American agencies as well as the English and French are greatly to blame for having encouraged and given them hope as well as aiding them in the fight against Communism. It can't be proven that the spiritual chiefs of the Legionnaire movement are making sincere efforts but they are convinced of a new orientation. Opportunism and the momentary necessity are forcing them to change their tactics. That is why I believe that caution and tact are followed on the part of those who are called to solve this problem. They submit - and in the future all the unions which they will submit to are just for the moment.

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